

## FOCUS ON FREE RADIO BROADCASTING

**T**here is an interesting, if not refreshing, new voice on the pirate airwaves today. It's the outspoken, mobster-accented voice of Rocco Giuliano and his interpretations of . . . just about everything.

Rocco is the star of a weekly, five minute long syndicated radio program called "Verbal Assault." It is a well produced show currently being circulated among pirate broadcasters. It can even be heard on a few legal college and progressive radio stations around the country. The list of pirate stations that carry "Verbal Assault" includes Radio Free Augsburg in West Germany, Music Radio in Holland, the Voice of Venus, Fantasy Broadcast Service, and others.

I recently had the chance to conduct an interview with Rocco and his producer/sidekick, Joe Tyburczy.

In Rocco's own words, the goal of "Verbal Assault" is to "instill in its listeners a sense of reality." "Reality" according to Rocco, makes for amusing, different, and (dare I say) enlightening listening. He rambles at length about trivial social details, offers obscene solutions, and is prepared to verbally assault anything that gets in his way. But at the same time, his program is far from being "disgusting." It's a sense of humor that can be identified with, but does not copy, the original *Saturday Night Live* TV programs.

During the course of the interview, I made the mistake of asking whose idea it was to begin "Verbal Assault," and what inspired it.

Rocco pounced on the question and gave an answer that was so long I would have had to drop the pirate loggings this month to accommodate it. Rocco is not one to use five words to say something when he can say it in twenty.

In true Rocco fashion, he said "That's a good question, because it gives me a chance to talk about myself. Actually, the 'idea' goes back to the 1960's, at which time I made the decision to communicate my sense of reality by some form of mass media.

"My first paying job was on a 10,000 watt AM station in Central Massachusetts, writing and producing commentaries and editorials, ostensibly on public issues like deficit spending and air pollution, which, to me, falls in the category of 'nuts and bolts.' So, I incurred the wrath of the station management by concentrating on my own philosophical concepts and an occasional excursion into my own pet peeves, like plants, runners, umbrellas, etc. This led to a falling out with my employers which culminated, literally, with threats of violence, drawn guns, and the intervention of security personnel, who escorted me from the studio in handcuffs."

After this little incident, so the story goes, Rocco decided he had to go into business for



Here is a rare picture of none other than "Verbal Assault's" Rocco Giuliano.



himself. He met his current producer, Joe Tyburczy, then an unemployed filmmaker "whose ambition in life was to produce a feature-length, animated version of *Hamlet* in a medium known as 'claymation.'"

But to this day, Joe maintains it was he who discovered Rocco "in the squalor of a rented room, yelling into the battered remains of an RCA DXC-44 broadcast microphone" which used to belong to a certain 10,000 watt radio station. So the story goes on and on.

Most listeners who have had the opportunity to hear "Verbal Assault" agree: it is a very professional sounding production. And yet it is only one aspect of what can be heard on pirate broadcast stations today.

If anyone who works at a radio station is interested in learning more about "Verbal Assault," I asked Rocco what they should do. I got the following answer: "I don't know and I don't care. What anyone does or doesn't do is his or her own problem, and I'm not interested in other people's problems. I have my own problems, which I fortunately have people to deal with for me."

Joe Tyburczy was a bit more helpful, and stated, "Interested stations (legal or pirate) should write to the Verbal Assault Syndication Dept., Dept. PC, Box 619, Hudson, MA 01749."

A complete, unedited copy of the interview with "Verbal Assault" can be obtained by writing to the Association of Clandestine radio Enthusiasts, PO Box 452, Moorhead, MN 56560. Send \$1.50, and ask for the "Verbal Assault" issue of *THE ACE*.

### Laser 730 Is Now Laser 558

Walter Haller checks in this month with an update on the British offshore pirate scene. Laser 730, a rival to the famous Radio Caroline and broadcasting from the ship *My Communicator*, is having problems with the British Telecom, England's version of AT&T. "Dear Darren,

"I'm in the US Air Force stationed in the United Kingdom. I'm writing in regards to the item about Laser 730 in the June, 1984, *Pirates Den* column.

"A station with a similar name was operating for a few weeks toward the end of May, and ending the second week in June. But they were on 558 kHz and not 730 kHz as planned. A jingle identified the station as 'Laser 558, transmitting from international waters.'

"I tried to place a call to them by SW ship-to-shore telephone, but to no avail. The British Telecom supposedly could not locate the *MV Communicator*, the ship Laser 558 said they were broadcasting from. With much persistence, British Telecom said that the *Communicator* was equipped to receive satellite calls via INMARSAT. The number they gave me was 1330442, but after many attempts and no results, the operator passed me on to INMARSAT headquarters.

"INMARSAT informed me that service had been withdrawn from *MV Communicator* because it was 'contravening numerous maritime regulations' and that British Telecom was vigorously pursuing this matter!"

Walter says that INMARSAT calls for the *MV Communicator* originating from the United States should get through.

### Pirate Bandscan

**KLS:** This was heard from 0210 to 0230 GMT by George Zeller of Ohio Programming consisted of hard rock vocal and instrumental music. George says the station's modulation was good, but that 7440 kHz was plagued with interference and made copy difficult.

**KQRP:** This pirate continues to be heard (and heard and . . .) by many SWLs. Frequencies to watch for this station's activities include 6208 kHz, 7405 kHz, 7413 kHz, 9930 kHz, and 11610 kHz, weekend evenings. KQRP frequently operates parallel frequencies. On a recent 7425 kHz broadcast, I heard this station sign off suddenly due to a thunderstorm.